

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 PM-05
EB-08 AID-05 DLOS-09 COME-00 DOTE-00 CG-00 /078 W
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R 090941Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5516
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, GA
SUBJECT: ABILITY OF THE GAMBIA TO PATROL OFFSHORE FISHERIES

REF: STATE 090967

1. FISHING INDUSTRY IS MODERATELY IMPORTANT TO THE GAMBIA AND HAS GREATER POTENTIAL THAN PRESENTLY BEING REALIZED. THE GAMBIA HAS ABOUT 40 MILES OF ATLANTIC COASTLINE, RICH IN FISH AND ROCK LOBSTER, AS WELL AS RIVER GAMBIA WHICH ABOUNDS IN SHRIMP AND SOME RIVER FISH. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED ARE KEYED TO REFTEL.

2. STATISTICS ON FISH CATCHES ARE HARD TO COME BY, AND OF DOUBTFUL ACCURACY. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FISHERIES DEPARTMENT 14,000 TONS OF SMOKED AND DRIED FISH, SHRIMP AND LOBSTERS WERE EXPORTED FROM THE GAMBIA JULY 1, 1977 TO APRIL 30, 1978. THESE EXPORTS WERE WORTH ABOUT DOLS 1.5 MILLION, OR PERHAPS 1.5-2 PERCENT OF TOTAL GAMBIAN EXPORTS. ABOUT 18,000 TONS OF FISH ARE CAUGHT ANNUALLY BY
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ARTISANAL FISHERMEN, OF WHICH 10,000 TONS CONSUMED LOCALLY. THERE ARE TWO MODERN FISHING FACILITIES IN BANJUL, ONE OF WHICH USES DEEP SEA PURSE SEINERS.

3. AT PRESENT ONLY 9 GHANAIAAN PURSE SEINERS AND 6 JAPANESE TRAWLERS ARE LICENSED BY GOTG TO FISH GAMBIAAN WATERS. OTHER FOREIGN VESSELS COULD APPLY TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL

RESOURCES FOR LICENSES.

4. POACHING IS A PROBLEM BUT PROBABLY DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE GAMBIAN CATCHES OR INCOME. GAMBIAN POLICE HAVE JUST RECEIVED SECOND BRITISH-MADE SMALL COASTAL PATROL BOAT. OVER PAST 18 MONTHS POLICE HAVE CAUGHT POLISH, ITALIAN, SOUTH KOREAN, SENE- GALESE, AND IVORY COAST POACHER VESSELS. INDEMNITIES HAVE BEEN HIGH(IN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS), AND SETTLED OUT OF COURT.

5. PRESENTLY GOTG CLAIMS 50 MILE FISHING ZONE, SOON TO BE EXTENDED TO 200 MILES. GAMBIANS HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED JOINT ACTIONS WITH SENEGALESE AUTHORITIES TO POLICE OFFSHORE FISHING.

6. REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE FROM CASABLANCA VISITED BANJUL IN JANUARY. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN HIS WRITTEN REPORT, BUT ASSUME IT WOULD PROVIDE FURTHER CLARIFICATION REGARDING CURRENT FISHERIES. SITUATION IN THE GAMBIA.
WYGANT

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